What are some ways religious people distort the Word of God?

What makes it difficult for us to fix our attention and hope on God?

What does Paul's attitude towards his sufferings teach you about resilience and faith?

In what ways can you experience God's power in your life despite trials or weaknesses?

How does this text impact your understanding of the Gospel's role in your life?

GOSPEL CONNECTION

"In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it…
"There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth."
John 1:4-5, 9-14

APPLICATION

What can and will you do this week to keep from losing heart in your life and maintain focus on that which is eternal?

MEMORY VERSE

"For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh." 2 Corinthians 4:11

Sermon-Based Study Guide

// November 8, 2026 //

Sermon Series:
A Call to Joy

Brandon Jones
Century Baptist Church

Let Light Shine Out of Darkness

2 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:18

1. The Messenger and the Message vv.1-6

2. Power in Weakness vv. 7-15

3. The Heart of Our Hope vv. 16-18

Sermon available at centurybaptist.org/watch/

Community Life Group Sermon-Based Study

// November 8, 2026 //

Our desire and goal is for all who call Century Baptist their church home to be involved in a Community Life Group or Bible study. We believe one of the best ways to be fed and exhorted in our faith is to interact with the Sunday sermon. This guide is designed to facilitate interaction by diving into the Sunday message through the study of Scripture together. If you are not in a group, we encourage you to take the step of involvement in community around your faith and the pursuit of faith in Jesus. While this study guide can be used individually, the greatest benefit of growth comes when people are interacting with each other around Biblical truth.

Contact Pastor Paul Herr at 701.223.0478 to learn more about sermon-based community life groups, and leading or hosting a group.

OPENING UP

Tell about a time in recently when you were discouraged and were losing heart due to your circumstances.

INTRODUCTION to *A Life of Joy* series

The letter to the church in Philippi is one of four written from prison (this time he is under house arrest in Rome) by the Apostle Paul. Founded on his second missionary journey, the Philippian Church was the first church established by Paul in Europe(Acts 16). This letter is a thank you for the kindness and generosity shown by the saints there. "It's usually difficult to capture the essence of a letter in one word, but in the case of Philippians, that one word is *joy*. Paul didn't write to answer any profound theological question, solve some knotty practical problem, or deal with a specific sin. Instead, he wrote to express and encourage joy. In a way, the book of Philippians is a showcase of joy. Like a treasure on display in the center of a gallery, joy can be examined from several angles to better appreciate its brilliance. Each of the four chapters reveals one of the distinct facets of that joy."
[Swindoll, C. R. (2017). Philippians, Colossians, Philemon (Vol. 9, p. 11). Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.]

READ 2 Corinthians 3:18 - 4:18

What was one point or statement from the message that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

What is the Apostle Paul referring to when he writes, "from glory to glory" in 3:18?

What does Paul mean by "we do not lose heart" (4:1)?

Why did Paul tell the Corinthians not to lose heart?

What did Paul believe would result from telling the plain truth (4:2)?

How did Paul respond to his opponents' accusations (4:2)?

Why did Paul's opponents not understand his ministry (4:3-4)?

Who is the god of this age (4:4)?

What has the god of this age done? How does he do this?

Whom did Paul preach (4:5-6)? Why?

What kind of jars contained Paul's treasure (4:7)?

How did Paul contrast his own weakness with God's power (4:8-9)?

What did Paul call his sufferings (4:10)?

What value did Paul see in his sufferings (4:10-12)?

What motivated Paul to preach the gospel in spite of hardship (4:13)?

How did Paul encourage the Corinthians to carry on despite difficulty?

Where should a believer fix his eyes?

How does our focal point impact our influence for the Kingdom of God?